

5/2

One can use the Wronskian to check if a list of functions are lin ind.

Ex) $t, \sin t$

$$W(t) = \begin{bmatrix} t & \sin t \\ 1 & \cos t \end{bmatrix}$$

$$\det(W(t)) = t \cos t - \sin t$$

$$\det(W(0)) = 0 \cos(0) - \sin(0) = 0$$

$$\det(W(\frac{\pi}{2})) = \frac{\pi}{2} (\cos(0)) - \sin(\frac{\pi}{2})$$

$$0 - 1 = -1$$

So t & $\sin t$ are lin ind.

Ex) $\sin t, \cos t, 1$

$$W(t) = \begin{bmatrix} \sin t & \cos t & 1 \\ \cos t & -\sin t & 0 \\ -\sin t & -\cos t & 0 \end{bmatrix}$$

Review det

$$= 1 \cdot \begin{bmatrix} \cos t & -\sin t \\ -\sin t & -\cos t \end{bmatrix}$$

$$\det(W(t)) = -\cos^2 t - \sin^2 t = -1 \quad \forall t \neq 0$$

So $\sin t, \cos t, 1$ are lin ind.

Back to ODEs: ...

$$x'' + 3x' + 2x = 0$$

$x_1 = e^{-t}$
 $x_2 = e^{-2t}$ } any lin combo is also a solution
 $c_1 e^{-t} + c_2 e^{-2t}$

Question was: Are we missing any solutions?
No! because x_1 & x_2 are lin ind.

$$W(x) = \begin{bmatrix} e^{-t} & e^{-2t} \\ -e^{-t} & -2e^{-2t} \end{bmatrix}$$

$$\det(W(t)) = e^{-t}(-2e^{-2t}) - (-e^{-t})(e^{-2t}) = -2e^{-3t} + e^{-3t} = -e^{-3t}$$

$$W(0) = 1(-2) - (-1)(1) = -2 + 1 = -1 \neq 0$$

So e^{-t} & e^{-2t} are lin ind.

Homogeneous because = 0

Thm: Consider the 2nd order ODE $x'' + p(t)x' + q(t)x = 0$

If x_1 and x_2 are lin independent solutions of (*) then all solutions to (*) are of the form $c_1 x_1 + c_2 x_2$.

Ex) $x'' - 5x' + 6x = 0$ (If $p(t)$ & $q(t)$ are constant, this method always works)
Find 2 solutions. (Find x in the form e^{rt} with $r = \text{constant to be determined}$)

Then find $x', x'', x'' - 5x' + 6x$.

$$x = e^{rt}, x' = r e^{rt}, x'' = r^2 e^{rt}$$

$$r^2 e^{rt} - 5r e^{rt} + 6e^{rt} = 0$$

$$e^{rt}(r^2 - 5r + 6) = 0$$

$$e^{rt}(r-3)(r-2) = 0 \quad r = 3, 2 \Rightarrow$$

$$\begin{bmatrix} x_1 = e^{2t} \\ x_2 = e^{3t} \end{bmatrix} \leftarrow 2 \text{ solutions}$$

$$W(x) = \begin{bmatrix} e^{2t} & e^{3t} \\ 2e^{2t} & 3e^{3t} \end{bmatrix}$$

$$\det(W(x)) = e^{2t}(3e^{3t}) - 2e^{2t}e^{3t}$$

$$3e^{5t} - 2e^{5t} = e^{5t} @ t=0 \quad e^{5(0)} = 1 \neq 0$$

So e^{2t} and e^{3t} are lin ind.

So they provide all the possible solutions
(By 2, get infinite free)

$$c_1 e^{2t} + c_2 e^{3t} = \text{All solutions}$$

Characteristic Equation is the r version of this.

Solve ODE's of the form $ax'' + bx' + cx = 0$:

With a, b, c constants.

Find solutions of the form e^{rt} . (If you find 2 that are lin ind you get them all)

Plug $x = e^{rt}$ and its derivatives into the equation.

$$x' = re^{rt}, x'' = r^2 e^{rt}$$

$$ar^2 e^{rt} + bce^{rt} + ce^{rt} = 0 \Rightarrow e^{rt}(ar^2 + br + c) = 0$$

Solve for r .

Most times this equations will have 2 real roots (that are different)

If:

1) The equation has 2 distinct real roots, r_1 & r_2 , then, $x_1 = e^{r_1 t}$ and $x_2 = e^{r_2 t}$ are two solutions.

These solutions turn out to be lin ind. therefore, all solutions to the ODE are lin combos of

$$x_1 \text{ and } x_2 \Rightarrow x = c_1 e^{r_1 t} + c_2 e^{r_2 t}$$

Ex) Solve the initial value problem $x'' - x' - 6x = 0, x(0) = 3$

$$x = e^{rt}, x' = re^{rt}, x'' = r^2 e^{rt}$$

$$x'(0) = -1$$

$$r^2 e^{rt} - re^{rt} - 6(e^{rt}) = 0$$

$$e^{rt}(r^2 - r - 6) = 0$$

$$(r-3)(r+2) = 0 \quad e^{3t} \text{ \& } e^{-2t}$$

All solutions: $x_1 = e^{3t}, x_2 = e^{-2t}$

$$x = c_1 e^{3t} + c_2 e^{-2t}$$

Now find c_1 & c_2

$$x = c_1 e^{3t} + c_2 e^{-2t}$$

$$x' = 3c_1 e^{3t} - 2c_2 e^{-2t} \quad @ \quad \begin{cases} x(0) = 3 \\ x'(0) = -1 \end{cases}$$

$$3 = c_1 e^{3(0)} + c_2 e^{-2(0)}$$

$$-1 = 3c_1 e^{3(0)} - 2c_2 e^{-2(0)}$$

(get $c_1 = 1, c_2 = 2$)

$$x = e^{3t} + 2e^{-2t}$$